WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Horticulture Eastern Zone Research and Development Centre in Orissa

621. SHRI RAMCHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased of state:

(a) whether Government have decided to start Horticulture Eastern Zone Research and Development Centre at Ekamrakanans, Bhubaneshwar, Orissa; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when it would start and what is the total budget allocation for the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question docs not arise.

Caste Discrimination in Gujarat earthquake relief

622. SHRI NAGENDRA NATH OJHA:
SHRI GAYA SINGH

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a joint study by the Delhi-based Indian social Institute (ISI) and an Ahmedabad based NGO, Behavioral Science Centre (BSC) has confirmed allegations of caste discrimination during Gujarat quake relief; and

(b) if so, the details of the findings and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) It is primarily the responsibility of the Government of Gujarat to take necessary measures in the wake of natural calamities in the State. The State Government have informed that no such joint study report has been received by them. Distribution of relief at the ground level is the responsibility of the State Government. According to the State Government, there has been no discrimination during quake relief operations and affected people were provided with cash doles, house-hold kits, foodgrains, medicines, tents, tarpaulins, blankets, etc.without any discrimination on the basis of caste, creed or religion.